

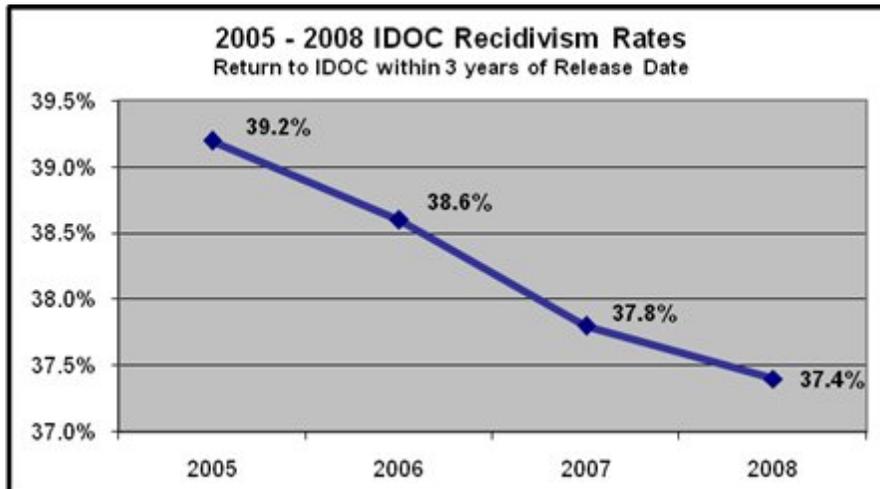
For Immediate Release

Indiana's Recidivism Rates Decline for Third Consecutive Year

Indianapolis, Indiana (March 10, 2009) – The Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) has been studying and monitoring Indiana's recidivism rates for the past four years. Now, researchers have found that the overall recidivism rate has declined for the third consecutive year to 37.4%.

The IDOC defines recidivism as an offender's return to incarceration within 3 years of their release date from a state correctional institution. An offender is included in this study when they are released via one of the following avenues: Community Transition Program (CTP), Probation, Parole, or Discharge. Once released, an offender is verified as a recidivist if they return to the institutional custody of the IDOC for a new conviction or a technical violation of post-incarceration supervision.

For offenders released in 2005, only 37.4% have returned to prison by 2008, which is lower than the 2007 recidivism rate of 37.8%. Rates for 2005 and 2006 were 39.2% and 38.6%, respectively. During those four years, the demographics of the offenders studied remained consistent.



In addition, one statistic regarding a class of offenders shows a great deal of promise. The recidivism rate for sex offenders returning on a new sex offense was 1.05%, one of the lowest in the nation. In a time when sex offenders continue to face additional post-release requirements that often result in their return to prison for violating technical rules such as registration and residency restrictions, the instances of sex offenders returning to prison due to the commitment of a new sex crime is extremely low.

These improving recidivism numbers demonstrate that the IDOC's focus on the successful re-entry of offenders in recent years is beginning to pay off. Indeed, all IDOC staff members across the state have worked hard to prepare offenders for their release back into their communities and give them the tools to succeed.

“Even though conventional wisdom would have us believe that recidivism is inevitable, I firmly believe that the hard work and dedication of IDOC staff has proven that the successful re-entry of offenders is more than possible,” commented IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss. “The third consecutive decline in Indiana’s recidivism rate is good for all, offenders, IDOC staff members, and Indiana taxpayers alike.”

The IDOC’s Research and Planning Division collected, analyzed, and presented the recidivism data.

-30-

Media Contact:

Douglas S. Garrison

Chief Communications Officer

Phone: (317) 232-5780

dsgarrison@idoc.in.gov